

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated July 12, 2005.

The Examiner has allowed claims 18, 19, and 28-31.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-14, and 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of respective combinations of Tan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,707,952 (hereinafter Tan) with Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,226,050 (claims 9 and 11-14); Lee and Simpson, U.S. Patent No. 5,754,702 (claims 1-8); and Lee and Borer, U.S. Patent No. 6,069,670 (claims 20-27). Tan, however, is not prior art to the present application, as (a) its application filing date of May 30, 2000 followed that of the present application, which is March 31, 2000 and (b) even if Tan were filed or published prior to the filing date of the present application, it would nonetheless be excluded as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because both inventions were commonly assigned to the same entity at the time the present application was filed. Therefore, for each of these reasons, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9, 11-14, and 20-27 is improper.

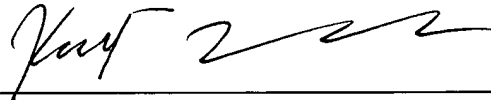
Absent Tan, each presented claim is patentably distinguished over the cited prior art. Specifically, as noted by the Examiner, independent claims 1 and 9 each include the limitation of "detecting an approximate direction of an image edge in a block of image pixels and establishing a filtering axis . . . relatively parallel to said direction" which is not disclosed by either Tan or Simpson. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 9, as well as their respective dependent claims 2-8 and 11-14 should be allowable.

Similarly, independent claim 20 includes the limitation of "detecting an approximate direction of an image edge in a block of image pixels and establishing a filtering axis aligned relatively parallel to said edge." This limitation is not disclosed by either Lee or Borer. Therefore claim 20, as well as its dependent claims 21-27 should also be allowable.

Appl. No. 09/541,141
Amdt. dated November 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 12, 2005

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-31.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 223-3-1450.



Dated: November 14, 2005

Kurt Rohlfs